United Nations A/57/473

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 112
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Conversion into established posts of some temporary assistance posts financed under section 2 of the programme budget

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

By paragraph 23 of its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, or no later than its fifty-seventh session, through the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, specific proposals for the conversion of some of the temporary assistant posts requested in section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 into established posts wherever that would measurably lead to higher efficiency and better quality of services. The Secretary-General will evaluate the situation in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, utilizing his review of the operational experience during the year 2002.

It is recommended that the General Assembly take note of the present report.

* The present report was prepared following consideration of the best modalities and timing for implementing the Secretary-General's proposals on improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (see A/57/289).

02-64028 (E) 171002

1. In the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 at its forty-first session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session proposals on the conversion of some temporary assistance funds requested in section 2 into established posts wherever that would lead to higher efficiency or to budgetary savings.[1]

2. By paragraph 83 of its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, or no later than its fifty-seventh session, through the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, specific proposals for the conversion of some of the temporary assistant posts requested in section 2 into established posts wherever that would measurably lead to higher efficiency and better quality of services.

3. The measures introduced by the Secretary-General following the adoption by the General Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and subsequent decisions adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 56/287 of 27 June 2002 have had a profound effect on the overall conference-servicing environment of the Organization. The situation has led to the need to evaluate the utilization of temporary assistance for meeting resources in the new environment, before proposals are made for conversion of such resources to established posts. It is anticipated that, should the evaluation support the conversion of resources, the necessary recommendations could be made in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

4. **It is recommended that the General Assembly take note of the present report.**

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16), para. 71.